



Happy New Year! For those of you that had time off during the holidays, I hope you had a healthy and restful break. For those of you who keep staffing the frontlines of the pandemic, my admiration and appreciation grows as we continue this fight. 2021 will be a year of recovery and hope, and our “Together, We Can” motto will be needed more than ever. We will work through 2021 together, and will be stronger for it.

Fire Department Gets Vaccinated

Our firefighters are 1st responders that act as frontline healthcare workers every day. Over 95% of our fire department has received both shots needed to become immune to the COVID-19 virus. They are truly leading by example as we roll out vaccines to employees and the community. In addition to taking the vaccine, many of our paramedics have been trained to give the vaccine shots and we are working on plans to deliver the vaccine to our more vulnerable residents. Thanks to Chief Parra and the rest of the team that are leading from the frontlines.

MLK Vaccination Station Opens

The City is launching a vaccine distribution point in partnership with the County of San Diego at MLK to quickly vaccinate our residents as doses become available for the general public. Information and details on COVID-19 vaccination sites will be made available on the County's COVID-19 Vaccine [website](#). Vaccine operations officially begin this Sunday, so please sign up you and or your family members if you fall within the [Phase 1A or 1B tiers](#), which currently include those 75 and older. Thank you to all staff who have been working diligently to get this infrastructure in place on very short notice. We will keep staff updated on vaccination availability, but I would highly encourage all of our staff to get vaccinated as soon as you have the opportunity so our community can reach group immunity.

Local Food Drives

Addressing food insecurity in our community continues to be a high priority and essential function offered by the city during the pandemic. The National City Nutrition Center offers home delivered meals and meals for pick up.

On Tuesday, November 24, Mayor Sotelo-Solis alongside community leaders from the National City Public Safety Foundation, the SD Latino Health Coalition, the Chicano Federation, San Ysidro Health, Blue Shield of California, the County of San Diego, PASHA Automotive and SDG&E distributed COVID-19 Safety kits during the annual Free Turkey Giveaway for residents.

Additional food distributions are regularly being held at the following locations:

- Highland Ave Baptist Church; 2605 Highland Ave., Event dates: 01/04/21; 02/05/21; 03/05/21; 04/02/21; 05/07/21;



06/04/21; 07/02/21; 08/06/21 – all distribution occurs between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

- Iglesia Metodista Libre Emanuel; 2529 D Ave., Event dates: Each Saturday 10 a.m.
- Jimmy's Produce; 1031 National City Blvd., Event dates: Each Saturday 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.; all distribution on hold until February 6 due to Building Renovation.
- Mayor PPE/Ham Distribution @ NC Public Library; 1401 National City Blvd., Event Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021 from 9-11 a.m.

Summary of January 19 City Council Meeting

At the January 19 City Council meeting, the City Council made appointments of new commissioners on both the Civil Service Commission and the Planning Commission. Staff provided a progress report on the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan and results on the FY 2019/20 Budget. We demonstrated our achievements in 2020, despite the pandemic, and provided a road map for 2021. Our leadership team recommitted to our mission as we signed the 7Cs Pledge.



In the FY 2019/20 budget update we share good news about us “outperforming” the projections. While only including a few months of COVID-19 impact through June 2020, the overall budget news was cautiously optimistic.

We'll return to City Council in March to share updated revenue projections at mid-year, and we'll also return to City Council in April with the preliminary FY 21/22 budget for their review. I'm attaching both presentations for more information on the strategic plan and the budget.

I want to thank staff on the immense progress that we made as an organization in 2020, despite the challenges that COVID-19 presented, and I am encouraged by our current budget position as we move towards mid-year FY 2020-21.

Open Enrollment Closes Today

Any changes to benefits you wish to make must be made during this time through BeneTrac our web-based enrollment and benefits system; changes will be effective February 1, 2021. Benefits documentation and information can be accessed on the HR Benefits [2021 Open Enrollment](#) Intranet page.

Please note: Open Enrollment for the 2021 plan year will be a passive enrollment, meaning employees do not have to do anything if they wish to keep their current elections; with the exception of those who wish to continue in the Flexible Spending Account(s) (FSA) plans and Health Spending Account (HSA) Employee-Paid for the new plan year. If you have any questions, please contact Rita Reddy at 336-4307.

January Birthdays

Help me send a birthday wish to all those employees celebrating their birthdays this month! Please take a moment to reach out and wish them a very happy & healthy day. [January Birthday List](#) Let's work through 2021 together and celebrate each other as we maintain our commitment to our community!